CBI had conducted a search of a Customs Appraiser in Mumbai. During the search of the residential premises of the officer, cash was recovered. No prosecution has been launched against the officer so far.

As regards former Chairman of the Central Board of Excise & Customs, the search was conducted in March and not in April, 2001. No prosecution has been launched against him so far.

Use of fake stamp paper by LIC

†*416. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of any case relating to use of fake stamp paper by Life Insurance Corporation and thus causing a major revenue loss to Government of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any investigation has been made in this regard;

(c) if so, the action taken against the guilty persons; and

(d) if not, the action proposed by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Government of Uttar Pradesh have informed that it has come to their knowledge that certain irregularities have been committed by the Life Insurance Corporation, Kanpur City regarding purchase of policy stamps. The matter is being inquired into by the District Authority of Stamps Department. An assessment of any revenue loss can be made only after the enquiry is completed.

(b) to (d) A departmental enquiry is being made into the alleged irregularities and action against guilty persons, if any, will taken after the enquiry is completed.

Recruitment of SC/ST Pilots

*417. SHRI R.N. ARYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether the backlog of reserved vacancies for SC and ST in Pilots' posts in Indian Airlines, Alliance Air and Air India have not been filled up;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are more than 70 qualified and eligible SC and ST candidates for being pilots;

(c) if so, by when they will be recruited;

(d) whether Government propose to have any special drive to fill up the vacancies of SC and ST; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that two batches of Training Pilots from January, 2001 to May, 2001 were recruited and what is SC and ST number in the above batches?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) At present, there is a shortfall of only 3 ST Trainee Pilots in Indian Airlines. Whereas, there is a shortfall of 4 SC and 1 ST Co-Pilots and no shortfall in the category of Trainee Pilots in Air India.

Alliance Air does not recruit Trainee Pilots. It only engages Pilots with Boeing 737-200 endorsement on contract basis.

(b) the statistics regarding the availability of qualified pilots in the General or Reserved categories in the open market is not maintained.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) At present, there is no proposal for any Special Recruitment Drive for SC/ST Pilots.

(e) Indian Airlines initiated recruitment action in November, 1999 for 24 Trainee Pilots. However, only 19 candidates including 4 SC and 3 OBC were selected through this exercise. During January-April, 2001, Indian Airlines filled-up 45 posts of Sr. Trainee Pilots/ Trainee Pilots which includes 7 SC, 4 ST and 11 OBC candidates. Further, and advertisement for 20 posts of Sr. Trainee Pilots has been issued on 12.8.2001 out of which 4 posts are earmarked for ST candidates and 7 for OBCs. Air India did not carry out any recruitment exercise during the year 2001.